

April 27, 1984

Memo to File:

RE: Inspection of the Hecla Shaft
Mine Site
Union Carbide (UMETCO)
ACT/037/043
San Juan County, Utah

In order to complete the revised permitting of Union Carbide's MRP's for Utah mines the Division performed an inspection of the Hecla Shaft on April 10, 1984. Tom Tetting, Wayne Hedberg and Susan Linner were present along with Steve McNeal from the State Health Department. Ron Dehollander, Rich Miller and Niels Haubold represented the company.

The major concern at the Hecla Shaft has been the design of the evaporation ponds which were built from unapproved plans several years ago. A December 13, 1983 letter from the Division of Environmental Health was the latest in their efforts to obtain plans of construction. Radioelement values have exceeded State Health limitations and concerns have been raised. The three evaporation ponds are situated in an abandoned gravel quarry alongside of a drainage which passes south of the mine pad area. It may be possible that seepage from these ponds reaches the drainage. The surrounding area was combed by the State's contingent during the inspection to observe any potential seeps or leaks. Fencing of the new pond area was recommended by the State Health Department and agreed upon by Susan as a good idea.

The drainage to the south of the pad has been encroached upon by debris such as used 55 gallon drums and oil or other fluid spills. The berm on the pad protecting this area had been breached and erosion evident. It had not been repaired as requested during the previous inspection.

A haphazard trash pile was located on the western edge of the wasterock piles to the south of the pad. A southern perimeter of topsoil has been piled up around the area proposed to be used for waste rock storage. It is recent evidence that Union Carbide is conserving this resource. The old evaporation ponds northwest of the pad have not yet been reclaimed.

The Division will incorporate the above mentioned concerns into a letter to the company requesting that the issues be taken care of prior to final surety arrangements being completed this summer.

Thomas N. Tetting
Engineering Geologist

TNT/jvb
87230-5

cc: Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM
Sue Linner, DOGM































